

Abstract

Print Job Assignment in a Reconfigurable Printing System

5 The present invention relates to a system and a method
that facilitates the assignment of a print job in a
printing system that has one of more printers (10,11,12)
connected to a computer-based printing system (1) so that
the printers economically match the requirements of a
10 print job generated by the printing system. Each printer
(10,11,12) has a plurality of different printing
configurations and each computer (2,3,4) is capable of
generating at least one print job. Each print job has
corresponding printing requirements and each printing
15 configuration being capable of satisfying one or more
printing requirements. A print job, once created, is
notionally assigned across one or more of the printers
(10,11,12) in such a way that the printers have printing
configurations that are capable of satisfying the printing
20 requirements. The cost for printing the print jobs is then
calculated for that notional assignment. This calculation
is repeated for different notional assignments, and then a
preferred assignment of the, or each, print job is
selected according to the calculated costs.

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Figure 1